

Edwards: Hood County Independent School Districts to Receive \$ 2,849,230 in Stimulus Funding

(Washington, D.C.) – United States Representative Chet Edwards announced today that Hood County independent school districts will receive a total of \$ 2,849,230 in funding from the stimulus legislation signed by the President on February 17th. These funds will be distributed to school districts through Title 1 and Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) funding formulas currently in place.

“Ensuring our schools have the funding they need during these difficult times is the right action to take and a good use of stimulus funds,” said Edwards. “These funds will give our schools the funding they need to hire teachers, upgrade old equipment, and provide the one-on-one attention our children need to succeed.”

School districts can use Title 1 funds in a number of ways including hiring teachers to lower student-teacher ratio, provide tutoring for struggling students, creating school computer labs, funding parent involvement activities, purchasing instructional materials, hosting professional development for teachers, creating pre-kindergarten classes, and hiring teacher assistants.

IDEA is the federal government’s main program concerning the education of children with disabilities. It authorizes aid for special education and services to help children with disabilities receive a full education. Funding from the stimulus will allow schools to better serve children with disabilities by better integrating them into the classroom and offering more personalized care and attention.

Texas independent schools districts will automatically receive approximately 50% of the total Title 1 and IDEA funds allocated from the stimulus. To receive all Title 1 and IDEA stimulus funds, the Texas Education Agency must request these funds after the initial disbursement is completed.

Stimulus dollars could also flow to local school districts for school construction. As part of the stimulus’ State Fiscal Stabilization Fund, Texas will be able to use stimulus funds for school construction, school safety improvements, and other government education services.

“By providing much needed education funding that allows local school districts flexibility to meet their highest potential, this stimulus funding can help our children, our schools and our economy,” concluded Edwards.

The following Hood County independent school districts will receive the following Title 1 and IDEA funding increases for 2009 and 2010 from the stimulus:

Granbury ISD

2009 and 2010 Combined Title 1 Funding: \$1,009,000

2009 and 2010 Combined IDEA Funding: \$1,622,250

Lipan ISD

2009 and 2010 Combined Title 1 Funding: \$ 20,400

2009 and 2010 Combined IDEA Funding: \$ 62,550

Tolar ISD

2009 and 2010 Combined Title 1 Funding: \$ 44,400

2009 and 2010 Combined IDEA Funding: \$ 90,630